The
Niagara Advance
www.niagaraadvance.ca
Thursday, December 22, 2011

New Year's Levee
hosted by Lieutenant Governor David Onley to be held at Fort George
12

Ring in 2012
with friends and family at the Court House
24

Basketball MVP honoured

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Thumps up for those on 'nice' list

SARAH FERGUSON Niagara Advance

Aine O'Neil, a student at Niagara Nursery School, tells Santa what she would like for Christmas. The nursery school held a holiday party on Monday to celebrate Christmas and raise donations for Newark Neighbours and Gillian's Place. Parents were delighted with songs sung by the nursery school students.

Eager Penguins await Boxing Day

For the Bjorgans, a dip in icy cold water on Boxing Day is a family tradition

Sarah Ferguson
Niagara Advance

It's chilly and the water is freezing but Chris Bjorgan can't wait to go for his traditional Boxing Day dip in the lake.

On Monday Bjorgan, along with fellow Penguins, will plunge into the water at Balls Beach.

The Penguin Dip is an annual tradition that dates back more than 30 years, says Bjorgan, who is looking forward to having another year under his belt.

Every Boxing Day, a group of about 60 people take a dip in Lake Ontario for the adrenaline rush from running into ice-cold water.

Sometimes they're doing it on a dare, he says. "It's certainly a challenge, and people can't turn down a dare."

Sometimes it's a generational event — there are some families that have been participating for years, says Bjorgan.

See Page 3

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Merry Christmas
Stefan Regier
sales representative

ROYAL LEPAGE
Niagara Real Estate Centre Inc., Brokerage

Newark Neighbours volunteers Brenda Shah and Eda Dyck organize Christmas boxes to be delivered to needy familes in NOTL.

Newark ready with help at Christmas

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

'Twas just days before Christmas, and all through the place, Newark volunteers were frantic, as they struggled for space . . .

Niagara-on-the-Lake residents have once again been so generous, says Newark Neighbours volunteer Brenda Shaw, that their barn is overflowing with boxes of food and toys for the town's needy families at Christmas.

There aren't a lot who have asked for help—just 26 families, four less than last year.

But NOTL residents are so big-hearted and giving, those who have requested help with Christmas dinner and some presents for their children should be pleasantly surprised by what they find in their Christmas boxes.

Every family will receive a turkey and all the trimmings, even singles or a couple without kids. Each person in the family will receive some chocolate treats, and the toys should make every child happy.

"We've had a wonderful response," says Shah.

"We always do."

While at the front of the barn overflowing boxes are lined up ready to go, the food shelves at the back are already being restocked for the coming months.

"Everybody is so generous," says Shah.

Churches, schools, service clubs and individuals have been very giving, including those who took food and gifts with them to be collected at the Candlelight Stroll and the NOTL Christmas Parade.

Although sometimes people are surprised there are any needy families in town, Newark has a list of regulars who come all year long for food to see them through each month.

Newark volunteers are able to purchase what they need that isn't donated, funded by the cash they receive selling used clothing and household items.

The barn is closed to shopping over the holidays, however, as volunteers finish up the Christmas hampers and then enjoy some much-needed time off themselves.

They will open Dec. 27, then close again until Jan. 2, when they will resume their regular schedule at the John Street barn Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

They can be reached at 905-468-3519.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Church Directory

Grace United Church
Victoria at Queen St. • Niagara-on-the-Lake
Minister: Rev. David Pritchard
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
Children's Program
A Friendly Welcome Awaits You
905-468-4044
www.graceunitedchurch.com
Wheelchair Access

Niagara Christian Assembly
(P.A.O.C.) 1875 Hwy 55 • 905-468-8971
NIAGARA RESOURCE CENTRE
December 24th
SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm
No Service on Christmas Day
Pastor Dave Tunikaitis Ministering
www.ncachurch.net: check here for events and podcasts.

BETHANY MENNONITE CHURCH
East/West Line & 4 Mile Creek Road
December 24th 6:30 pm
Christmas Eve Service
December 25 NO Service
Pastors David Brubacher and Marty Misener
905-468-3505
www.vaxxine.com/bethany/

Village Bible Church
St. Davids Public School Meeting at 1344 York Road, St. Davids 289-296-9036
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church, 1442 York Road, St. Davids
"I Can't Believe It's Christmas"
Greg Alderton, Pastor www.villagebiblechurch.ca

Cornerstone Community Church "You belong"
www.ccchurch.ca
1570 Niagara Stone Rd.
905-468-7155
Saturday, December 24th
Christmas Eve Services: 5:00pm & 6:30pm
Sunday, December 25th
Christmas Day Worship Service: 10:00am
"He Came...To Give God Glory."
Message by: Kevin Bayne, Pastor

Niagara United Mennonite Church
"Called to be Servants of Christ In Our Community"
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
&
10:45 am Christmas Day Service
Pastors: Rudy & Sharon Dirks, Stephen Cox
1775 Niagara Stone Road
905-468-3313
http://www.redbrickchurch.ca

Orchard Park Bible Church
www.orchardparkbiblechurch.org
434 Hunter Rd.
905-468-5731
Sunday, December 25th
NO Service
Christmas Day

St. Davids - Queenston United Church
EVERYONE WELCOME
1453 York Road
in the village of St. Davids
905-262-5242
Minister: Rev. Paul James
Christmas Eve 7:00pm
Christmas Day 10:30am

LIFE ABUNDANT FELLOWSHIP
"To know Christ & to make Him known"
Christmas Day
9:30 am Worship
MESSAGE: Why?
Pastor Rick Mills
Concession 7 & Queenston Rd., NOTL • 905-688-3958
lifeabundantfellowship@gmail.com

St. Saviour's Anglican Church
General Brock Memorial
on the Niagara River in
Queenston
Christmas Eve 7:30 pm
Candlelight Communion
No Service on Christmas Day
No Service on New Year's Day

To Advertise in the Church Directory
Call Karen Skeoch
at 905-468-3283 ext. 101
karens@niagaraadvance.com

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
2027 Niagara Stone Road • 905-468-2611 or 905-468-9673
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:30 pm
Christmas Day Worship Service 10:00 am
Pastor Larry Ritter

ST. MARK'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
41 Byron Street
Founded 1792
CHRISTMAS EVE 7:30pm
Choral Eucharist Family Service
CHRISTMAS EVE 11:00pm
Lessons & Carols with Choral Eucharist.
CHRISTMAS DAY 10:30am
Holy Eucharist with Guest Musicians.
905-468-3123
Rector: The Rev. Canon Dr. Robert S.G. Wright
www.stmarks1792.com

Christmas Services
at St. Andrew's
Christmas Eve 7pm
"Very Ordinary"
Christmas Eve 11pm
"The Response"
Christmas Day 11am
"The Point of It all"
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
323 Simcoe Street,
Niagara-on-the-Lake

Water is cold, whatever the temperature outside

Chris Bjorgan holds aloft a piece of ice in the 2010 Penguin Swim, which was moved to Queen's Royal Park because Ball's Beach was too treacherous.

From Page 1

His family is one of those who have made it part of their Boxing Day tradition.

"My brothers have all done it with me and so have all of my daughters. The Penguin dip becomes a father and son or mother or daughter event."

Or, the dip can simply be just a way to kick off another New Year and say goodbye to the old one, he says. "Most people do it because at Christmas time there is a lot of eating and drinking and going for a dip is a good way to finish the season."

For anyone who has never watched, the brave participants will rush into the water and run out three times. Each time, the dippers enter the water for just a few minutes before they are given a short time on shore to "warm up." Then it's back out into the icy water for another quick dip—the whole event is over quickly, with the participants wet for about half an hour.

To qualify as an official Penguin, dippers must enter the water three times for three years.

The Penguin says he expects to see more people out on Boxing Day because of the weather—although it won't seem any warmer to the dippers.

"Usually there are any where from 30 to 50 people. It just all depends on the year and how the weather is. People think the warmer weather will make a difference, but cold is cold and the water won't be any different from previous years," he says.

"Each time you run into the water it becomes progressively more painful."

The pain is something that Bjorgan says he has become accustomed to after years of experience, although last year "it was ridiculous," he says.

"We had to move to Lions Beach because it was impossible to get in and out of the water where we normally do it. And we only ran into the water once for safety reasons."

Although some people might consider him crazy, he says it is the challenge that keeps him coming back for more, year after year.

And after he takes the plunge, Bjorgan says he will celebrate another successful dip with his friends.

"Maybe we'll gather some people and go for suicide wings afterward to warm up," he laughs.

And for anyone who is thinking about participating this year, there are a few things to remember.

"My advice to anyone coming—wear as little as possible because the more clothing you have on you, the more the cold water hangs on you."

It's also helpful to have on dark clothing and a good pair of shoes on because swimmers will be running over gravel and rocks.

The Penguin says it's important to stay safe and he asks that everyone save celebrating with alcoholic beverages for after the event.

"Bring your courage and stay sober."

The Penguin Dip will begin at 1 p.m. at Balls Beach, but swimmers are asked to arrived at 12:30 p.m. so the dip can begin on time.

Learning the life of a soldier—1812 style

SARAH FERGUSON Niagara Advance

Brett Levitt helped Peter Martin at the Navy hall open house on Saturday to hold a heavy rifle which would have been used by a soldier on the battlefield during the War of 1812.

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Tops in innovation

SARAH FERGUSON
Niagara Advance

Students from Crossroads Public School Robotics Club competed in a lego contest held at Niagara College Saturday, and won first place for their innovation. Their CRTC, Crossroads Robotic Team Creation, was designed as an automatic hand-washer, sanitizer and dryer. Their task was to build a robot that would eradicate germs.

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10 FIRELANE 6A $1,095,000

Stunning waterfront home! 2,760 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 3 baths & a private self contained main floor guest/in-law suite. This property has so many features & upgrades, please call us for a comprehensive list. MLS 20144253. Chris Bowron and Audrey Wright.

4 CHRISTOPHER COURT $799,000

Gorgeous setting for this unique property located on a quiet cul de sac of prestigious homes. Some features include wood floors; 3 fireplaces; Florida room; wraparound deck, salt water pool; fire pit; lower level apartment/home office with its own entrance. Oversized garage with workshop. MLS 20144208. Victoria (Vicki) Bolduc.

158 RIDGEWAY ROAD $234,000

Excellent Investment Opportunity. Two, two bedroom apartments under one roof. MPAC description – Semi-detached with both units under one ownership. Completely renovated 1800 sq. ft. bungalow. MLS 20145314. Doug Snider.

39 MELVILLE $624,000

One of just 11 distinctively designed freehold townhomes with views from the upper decks across the marina to the Niagara River and to Lake Ontario at the rear. From the solid limestone and natural wood exterior to the classic open plan interior it is prefect as a second home or permanent residence. MLS 20144893. Viviane Elltoft or Tom Elltoft.

346 QUEEN STREET $2,795,000

Overlooking the historic NOTL Golf Course & Lake Ontario, this well-appointed, light-filled 15 year old custom built residence with over 8,000 sq. ft. of finished living space captures the essence of Old Niagara. MLS 20137958. Tom Elltoft or Viviane Elltoft.

32 SHAKESPEARE $389,900

A completely updated and newly decorated Chautauqua home built in 1977 with 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and fully finished basement. A stone's throw from Lake Ontario and beautiful sunsets and only 5 minutes to downtown. MLS 20138205. Viviane Elltoft or Tom Elltoft.

970 FOUR MILE CREEK RD. $260,000

Great potential with almost 2 acres (1.88) and 2 driveways. Brick bungalow with new shingles and new furnace, needing some TLC. Features pond at rear of property and is a central location between Virgil and St. Davids. MLS N30000032. Tom Elltoft and Kim Elltoft

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opinion page

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our editorial

Let's try to sustain some of serenity that comes with Christmas celebration

For some of us, knowing we will have our family gathered around us, this is our favourite time of year. Surrounded by children, grandchildren, those we love and cherish, we will enjoy good times and magical moments—the kind we record, whether in photos or in our hearts, to nourish us throughout the year.

We know there are others less fortunate, perhaps because they don't have the financial ability to provide the kind of festivity they would like to give their families; maybe they have lost someone dear to them, leaving an empty place at the table and in their hearts; or they're become accustomed to being alone, although not by choice, and find loneliness hardest to escape during holidays.

We live in a most generous community, and have the comfort of knowing that those who are able have reached out or will do so to those who are less able to cope without help.

We have just a few more days of the hectic rush that leads up to Christmas, and then we can all take a deep breath and make the most of our holiday.

Whether we have religious faith that leads us to celebrate the simple birth of a child born centuries ago, or faith in those we love and the values passed on by those who loved us, we are reminded that this is a time of peace, of joy, of love for others.

Have a lovely Christmas, a safe holiday, and when our few days of calm and tranquility are over, let's resolve to sustain some of that serenity in the year to come.

A week left to help those most in need

PENNY COLES Niagara Advance

Arthur Dalfen (centre) pays his first visit to Red Roof Retreat, with director Peter Gill and Steffanie Bjorgan. There is just a week left of a fundraising challenge issued by Dalfen—he will contribute up to $10,000 to match donations that are made by Dec. 31 to Red Roof, which offers programs and respite care for disabled children and young adults.

letters to the editor

Public transit should complement existing subsidized service

With regard to the recent letters pertaining to this subject: I was especially interested in the comments of Neil Middleton (Niagara Advance, Dec. 8) a driver on the current subsidized taxi service so one who is well placed to comment, though obviously from a subjective point of view.

Mr. Middleton refers to the expenditure on items that the taxpayer aged "50 to 90" will not use.

I'm 44: I pay taxes, and do/will continue to, use the services he mentions (hopefully), to a ripe and active old age.

The current system of "transit" (my quotations), is basically WheelTrans or Dial-A-Ride by any other name. It is not a transit system by any definition. It serves by appointment only a tiny fraction of the population.

It is important. It is well run. It is a vital service to seniors, the disabled and students.

It is not open to me, yet I would like to be able to connect with a bus to Virgil or better still St. Catharines.

I regularly go to Toronto: at the moment I drive to Burlington and take the GO train.

If I could take a bus to St. Catharines to connect with GO service there I would do so willingly. A regular transit link would actually see me leave my car at home for all manner of errands and journeys from business, doctors appointments, shopping, leisure trips . . . the list is long.

I have lived in NOTL for five years, moving here from the UK via the US and Greece.

I come from a small community in the northwest of England: my mother who has never driven can take a bus to either of the closest market towns and from there connect to larger cities if she wishes. In Greece, I lived in a tiny (5000 population) village with four buses a day to the nearest large town.

WheelTrans services such as those Mr. Middleton works for a vital service: they should continue, but alongside an integrated transit system that works for all of the residents of this area. There would be economic and social benefits to the wider community . . . not just the immediate town.

Two examples spring to mind:

1) I have two senior friends who have moved out of NOTL to St. Catharines because they no longer feel they can manage (even with the present subsidized service), to live here. They wanted transit for independence and to allow other friends to visit them without having to drive.

This leads to my second point:

2) Tourism: not everyone wants to drive to NOTL.

I had two friends from Toronto this year who were amazed that for a Wednesday matinee at the Shaw Festival Theatre there was no way for them to travel here except to hire a car. They did just that.

They won't be back as the car hire/gas was more than their theatre ticket price.

As Shaw is (I believe) looking to attract newer and younger audiences how are they going to get here?

The town needs to exercise some joined-up thinking here. Transit works for everyone. It shouldn't exclude the current service, it should complement it.

Jon Osbaldeston

letters to the editor

Candlelight Stroll has changed considerably since its humble beginnings

It all began when Bambi Donnason, a local music teacher, approached the various Choir Directors to see who would be interested in an evening of carol singing and strolling round the various seniors groups as a Christmas surprise.

As I recall we gathered at Market Square, Bambi had printed off several sheets of words for us all, gave some instructions and off we set.

However we soon discovered we could not read the words between the street lights and with no band or even a drummer we became aware of the fact we were not all on the same note or time - quite hilarious, really, but not the greatest to listen to.

It was a bitterly cold evening that year of the first Candlelight Stroll but I can honestly say we were enjoying ourselves and laughing so much we never noticed.

One thing became clear—there would have to be changes.

I am not sure if it was the next year or two years later that Arthur Nieuwdorp (of Neuville Candles), who had witnessed the Winter Olympics with that wonderful "Share the Flame" event, became involved.

That year we set out from the Shaw Festival Theatre - we did the stroll past the hospital, etc. but again had musical problems, so it was decided the musicians would remain in place and the public would stroll, and so the event developed.

The plastic cups to protect the candle flame helped a lot and Trisha Romance did a great design for them and so encouraged the Victorian dress theme.

The Shaw loaned elaborate hats to those of us on the committee - the men had the 'stove-pipe' style, and mufflers or scarves around their necks, and so gradually it became what we know today - although all the candle sellers were in costume, which I feel should still be part of things.

The sale of the candles still goes to a good cause, everyone enjoys the singing and so good comes to it all even from that very rocky start.

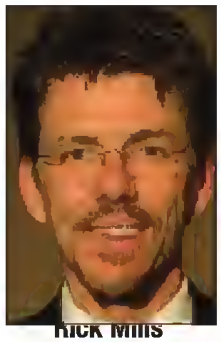
The special moment I will always remember was the year we arranged for the church bells to toll, and just as the leading carriage turned the bend into the park and the bells of St.Mark's peeled out a gentle snow started to fall - it was the perfect Christmas card moment.

Merry Christmas to all.

Jean Cochrane

A Child is born for us—a present, Christmas presence without pretense

Confession good for the soul—but not necessarily for the grocery store line-up



Rick Mills
Life Abundant Fellowship
A Christmas Word

It's said confession is good for the soul.

Not very good for the reputation, but good for the soul.

I have a confession. As a child, I had a tendency to sneak around the house to try to discover what I was getting for Christmas.

One time, hidden in what we called the cubbyhole, I found an electric guitar. In the dark, all I could do was feel it. Oh, those strings!

I was so shocked and excited by the time Christmas morning arrived, I convinced myself it was all a dream.

Really. Known for having a vivid imagination, maybe that's all it was. When the magical morning finally arrived and I did find the electric guitar under the tree, my response was a bona fide, "For me?"

Fast forward 10 years and it's my second Christmas as a married man. My wife placed a Christmas present under the tree and it has my name on it.

She says she never dropped any teasers as to what it might be and that I'm just nosey. I prefer the word curious. Yes, I confess my curiosity got the best of me.

I can already hear the comments while standing in line at the grocery store next week: "Rick Mills, I'm so disappointed in you."

"I knew you'd never grow up, Rick!"

"Can you really be trusted, Rick?"

This confession business is costly you know. But it's good for the soul, so I'll finish my story.

Yes, I did unwrap the present, thrilled to find a zoom lens for my recently purchased camera. How thoughtful my wife was (and is).

Never any good at wrapping, I somehow did a masterful job in the rewrap. Another magical morning arrives, but this time my surprise is disingenuous. Ouch, it hurts to even type that word. My pretense cut me like a knife.

"For me?" I said. Did I mention that my wife is gullible? She prefers the word naïve. Let me tell you, with God as my witness, I've never unwrapped another Christmas gift before its time.

Oh boy, I think I'll avoid the grocery line for the first month of 2012.

Some of my favourite scriptures during this Christmas season are found in the book of Isaiah, where the prophet tells of that first magical morning hundreds of years in advance.

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

"Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this."

A Child, a Son, unto us. Let's modernize unto us – for us. Let's personalize it - for me.

Can you say it? Say it out loud: "For me."

Have you ever received that gift which was a total surprise? A gift that caught you completely off guard?

You probably said something like, "For me?" Or as my 18-year-old would say in today's phraseology, "Shut up!"

C.S. Lewis calls it "surprised by joy".

In Luke's gospel the angel of the Lord is recorded as saying to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people."

For me, a child, Immanuel – God with us. With me.

It's called Christmas Presence.

The psalmist wrote, "In His presence is fullness of joy."

It's my prayer that this new Christmas season brings joy to your world in the form of Immanuel, Jesus, God with you.

A present, a presence - without pretense.

"For me!" - A Child is born, a Son is given.

Niagara On-The-Lake HYDRO

Holiday Hours

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Monday Dec 26th to Friday Dec 30th
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Monday Jan 2nd
8:30am to 4:30pm

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Happy Holidays from NOTL Hydro

An old–fashioned Christmas

SARAH FERGUSON
Niagara Advance

Caitlynn Pototyk and Suzanne Kavanesh make Christmas boots out of felt and yarn at Navy Hall Saturday, Christmas ornaments of times gone by. The event is an annual Christmas open house for families, sponsored by Parks Canada and the Friends of Fort George. There were games, crafts and music for children that would have been enjoyed during the 1800s in NOTL.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
1593 Four Mile Creek Rd., Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0 905-468-3266 www.notl.org

Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
2012 WATER & WASTEWATER RATES

The Council of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake has passed a by-law to amend water and wastewater rates effective January 1, 2012. A decision was made last year to amend the rate structure to provide for a graduated fixed charge based on water meter size (which relates to the water service connection) and was done so after careful consideration of a financial plan for each of the water distribution and wastewater collection systems to ensure their long-term sustainability.

The fixed monthly charge and variable rate for water will increase by 5% over last year's charge and rate.

The fixed monthly charge and variable rate for wastewater will increase by 2% over last year's charge and rate.

A copy of the new rate card below will be included in your next water bill. For further information on these rates and how they impact your water and wastewater billing, please visit the Town's web site at www.notl.org under Hot Topics – "Notice to Water and Wastewater Customers," or call the Public Works Department at 905-468-3278.

EFFECTIVE January 1, 2012

Water Rates
Uniform rate of $1.2288 per m³ plus a monthly fixed rate as set out below:

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6	$427.16
8	$589.89
10	$813.65

Wastewater Rates
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2	$65.17
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8	$651.70
10	$898.89

Warmest Greetings of the Season and Best Wishes for the Coming Year

From Lord Mayor Dave Eke, Members of Council and Staff of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake

From left to right: Jim Collard, Terry Flynn, Maria Bau-Coote, Gary Zalepa, Lord Mayor Dave Eke, Dennis Dick, Martin Mazza, Andrea Kaiser, Jamie King

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Hats off to little soldiers

SARAH FERGUSON Niagara Advance

Simon and Oliver Regier visit the Navy Hall Christmas Open House Saturday and imagine themselves as mini soldiers from the 1800s, modelling the hats that would have been worn as part of a soldier's uniform as they wait for a musket demonstration.

The Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake
1593 Four Mile Creek Rd., Box 100, Virgil, ON L0S 1T0 905-468-3266 www.notl.org

HOLIDAY HOURS

The Corporation of the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Administration and Public Works

Office Hours:

December 26 to 30, 2011 - Offices Closed
January 2, 2012 - All Town Offices Open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Public Works inquiries should be directed to 905-468-3278 during this period.

For the **"Christmas Holiday Skating Schedule"** *please visit our website at* **www.notl.org or call the Arena at 905 468-4261.**
Schedules can also be picked up at the **Parks and Recreation Office, 1565 Four Mile Creek Road.**

Holly Dowd,
Town Clerk

HOLIDAY DRIVING REMINDERS

- *Designated drivers are the life of the party*
- *Don't be a Crash "Text" Dummy - distracted driving could cost you a $155 fine or worse*
- *Take it slow on ice and snow, 'tis better to arrive late than never*
- *Give the gift of courtesy to your fellow road users this Christmas - goodwill is free!*
- *Help keep our community safe by reporting aggressive driving to* roadwatchnotl.com

ROAD WATCH

The NOTL Traffic Safety Task Force wishes you a safe and happy Holiday Season!

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Note: Closed Jan. 1–18, 2012

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Or
Seared Pacific Halibut with Warm Vegetable Couscous & Mediterranean Beurre Composé

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Volunteer snow removal program an asset to members of community

Sarah Ferguson
Niagara Advance

Eve Wylie has been taking advantage of Niagara-on-the-Lake's volunteer snow removal program for fours years.

And Wylie is thankful the service is available.

"If I had to clear it myself I would not be feeling too well after."

The senior says knowing she cay rely on the kindness of volunteers has helped to give her peace of mind.

"I'm no spring chicken. I'm almost 73 years old and shovelling a driveway is very hard for me to do."

Wylie says the same volunteer has been shovelling her Garrison Village driveway for the past three years, but this year there aren't any volunteers available in her neighbourhood. She has been signed up since the beginning of November in anticipation of the first snow fall. But, with no registered volunteers nearby, Wylie says she would like everyone to understand how important this service is to the people who use it.

The weather outside certainly isn't frightful —in fact it's been unusually warm —but that doesn't mean winter isn't on its way.

And, as Ewald Kuczera, director of public works, the department that organizes the volunteer program, says, the weather could change over night.

Since 2007, the Town has put together a group of kind-hearted people to participate in the volunteer snow removal program.

Each year, the volunteers are called out to help remove snow from sidewalks and driveways for seniors or people who have medical problems or disabilities that make it difficult for them to do the hard labour themselves.

Currently, there are six volunteers who have signed up so far and four people who have requested help with snow removal.

"We've had a late start —we haven't had a lot of interest yet because of the warm weather. In previous years, we started receiving requests for service in the beginning of November. I expect things will come around quickly."

Volunteers are matched with people who live in their own neighbourhoods, says Kuczera.

"We try to match volunteers with people who live nearby. For example, we would try to match a volunteer who lives in St. Davids with someone who lives nearby so there is less out-of-pocket expense for volunteers."

Materials such as shovels and snow blowers are either provided by the volunteers or homeowners and the most it costs is just an hour or two of time.

Kuczera says volunteering is a perfect way to get to know people in the community and an excellent opportunity for high school students to complete the required volunteer hours to graduate.

The Town has reached out to students attending high schools in St. Catharines and Niagara Falls, and to students attending Niagara College to help up with the program.

"We will accept volunteers right through the entire winter. We will welcome anyone who wants to volunteer with open arms."

NOTL is a community of people who are always willing to help, says Kuczera.

"Sometimes we don't know how to help other people and volunteering for the snow removal program is just one way to do that."

For more information phone the Public Works Department at 905-468-

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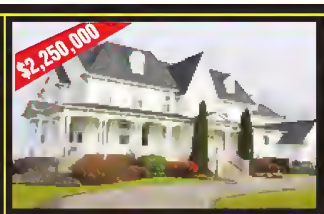
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289 RICARDO ST., NOTL

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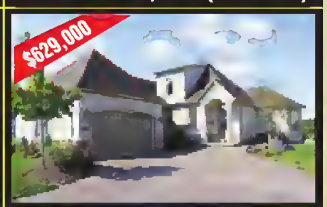
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HAPPY HOLIDAYS
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Margie
James

SOLD IN 2011

Expect annual party to be 'stepped up a notch' as first bicentennial event

Organizers "pulling out all the stops" for New Year's Levee, first official event of War of 1812 bicentennial celebrations, to be hosted by Lieutenant Governor David Onley

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

New Year's Day in Niagara-on-the-Lake is always cause for a party, but this year the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, David Onley, will be the host.

The welcoming in of 2012 will be Onley's New Year's Levee, and the first event marking the bicentennial. It will be held at Fort George, to accommodate crowds larger than those usually expected at Navy Hall, the customary venue for the New Year's Day celebration.

Instead of holding the traditional Regional levee mid-January at regional headquarters, Regional Chairman Gary Burroughs will join Onley at Fort George, along with the Town's Lord Mayor David Eke.

Dignitaries and local politicians from both sides of the border are expected to help launch the celebration of 200 years of peace.

While the Friends of Fort George have been hosting the event for the last 25 years or more, this year's levee is being "kicked up a few notches," says Jim Alexander.

"We're pulling out all the stops."

Parks Canada, the Region and the War of 1812 bicentennial committees of both the town and the region are presenting this event.

The refreshments, arranged by regional staff, will be a little more substantial than the Friends of Fort George usually offer, says Alexander, who has helped host the event for decades.

While Navy Hall can feel pretty crowded with the 250 to 300 people who usually turn out for the levee, the Lieutenant Governor's event is expected to attract about 1,000 people.

"But when you think about all the players—the regional people, our own people from NOTL and those who will attend because it's the Lieutenant Governor's levee, it could be closer to 1,500," says Alexander.

See Page 13

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- Peace on earth

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— Bev

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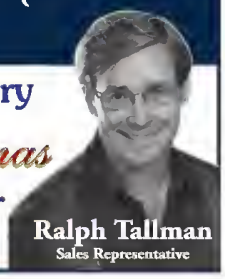

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Canon fire will be answered back from Fort Niagara

From Page 12

"That wouldn't surprise me."

In some respects, the Friends are off the hook with this celebration, because the organization of it has been largely taken over by the region, says Alexander, but he and other members of the organization will still be there to help ensure it runs smoothly

A massive heated tent will be erected on the grounds of Fort George, which will have interpretive staff on hand in each of its buildings to show what life at the fort in the winter would have been like, says Alexander.

Onley will be part of an official reception line inside the Officers' Quarters at the Fort, while outside, people will be socializing in the tent.

All guests will be welcome to tour the buildings within the fort and there will be performances by the Fort George Fife & Drum corps.

There will also be information available about upcoming bicentennial celebration events.

"This event will be a great advertisement for the bicentennial, and we'll be making the most of it. It's an opportunity for us to spread the word."

Onley will officially welcome in 2012 at 3 p.m., before giving the command for a cannon salute at 3:00 p.m. This year, to launch War of 1812 bicentennial celebrations on both sides of the river, Americans will fire back from Fort Niagara.

The origins of a levee can be traced back to the 18th century during the reign of King Louis XIV.

The tradition was brought to Canada by the Royal Governor of New France; who would sit on his doorstep at his Quebec residence on New Year's Day morning to greet the citizens and usher in the New Year.

Those who plan to attend are warned to dress accordingly, as it is a semi-outdoors event.

Fort George will open to the public at 1 p.m.

Jim Alexander of the Friends of Fort George is accustomed to toasting the new year at Navy Hall, as he did in 2011, but this year's event is being held on a much larger scale at Fort George.

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Students enjoy celebrating family traditions at Christmas

Sarah Ferguson
Niagara Advance

It may be a strange tradition, but Ben Glauser says his mom hides a pickle in his family's Christmas tree every year.

"It's something she started a few years ago. My brother and I look for it in the tree and whoever finds it first gets to go out for lunch with my mom."

Ben Glauser

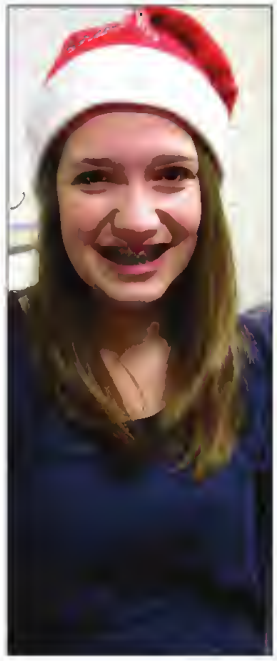
With only three more nights until the big day, the St. Davids student says he is looking forward to his family's holiday traditions, which include baking cookies and building a gingerbread house with his grandmother.

Madison Lepp, another student at St. Davids, says she looks forward to baking with her great-grandmother at Christmas time.

Every year she rolls cookie dough and cuts out two circles — then she spreads apricot jam on both the ends before putting them together and rolling the pieces in icing sugar.

"We call them Oka cookies because they are named after my great-grandmother."

When Lepp was young, she says she couldn't pronounce Oma and she's been calling her great-grandma Oka ever since.



Madison Lepp

Even though her Oka wasn't able to make the special cookies this year because she hasn't been well, Lepp says her family decided to carry on the tradition with the cookies.

"We still made them this year anyway. I look forward to them because I love them."

Parliament Oak students Katie Caughill, Justice Ball and George Angelalopoulos agree that the most important tradition at Christmas time is to spend time with family.

For Ball, spending time with family during the holidays means finding an empty parking lot to play a game of ball hockey with his parents.

See Page 15

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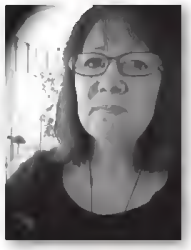

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Favourites include pickles, burritos

From Page 14

Justice Ball

"I always play a hockey scrimmage with my mom and dad a few days before Christmas."

It's something Ball does every year with his parents because they all enjoy the sport.

George Angelapoulos

Angelalopoulos enjoys Christmas Eve because his grandparents, his mom and dad and his siblings are together in once place having fun and opening presents together.

And for Caughill, it's not Christmas time until she decorates the holiday tree with her family.

'We have a Christmas ornament which is a pickle. It's funny because my dad always has to put it on the tree and no one else is allowed."

Katie Caughill

Josh Davis, from St. Davids says he looks forward to his family's traditional Christmas treats the most.

His favourite treats to eat during the holiday season are peanut butter balls made of peanut butter balls and icing.

But, Christmas is about so much more.

Davis says he has learned a few things growing up—the holidays are about much more than treats you can eat, or presents you can unwrap.

"When you're little, it's about the presents, but when you're older you realize Christmas is about spending time with your family."

Crossroads student Maddie Peters agrees with Davis that the holidays are about being with family.

Peters says her holidays are filled with plenty of laughter and fun with her.

"On Christmas Eve, all of the aunts and uncles come over and we play board games all night."

It's something Peters looks forward to every year because she says the holidays wouldn't be the same for her.

Fellow classmate Sarah vanEgmond, also believes Christmas is about family, but she says it's nice to eat "all the forbidden food."

VanEgmond says she enjoys every type of holiday treat from cakes to chocolate and candy.

And every Christmas morning, the Crossroads student says she makes breakfast with her family.

"Every Christmas morning we have breakfast burritos and it's not Christmas without my burrito."

Karilyn Klassen who also attends Crossroads says she used to hate getting clothes on Christmas when she was younger.

But now clothes are presents she loves to receive.

"We always get new pajamas on Christmas Eve and we wear them that night so we're stylish on Christmas Day."

Brianna Franz, also a Crossroads student, says what she enjoys most about the holiday season is decorating.

Each year, Franz says her family puts up their Christmas tree at the beginning of the month.

And every time the tree goes up, Franz says she laughs because her brothers argue over who will have the honour of placing the star on top of the tree.

"Everyone in my family is so tall and all my brothers want to put the star on the tree."

Even though it may seem silly that her brothers argue about the star, Franz says she will always have fond memories when she thinks about holidays that have long since past.

And since Franz has grown a lot taller this year, she says she hopes to be able to have the opportunity to put on the star on the tree next year — now that she can almost reach it like her brothers can.

SARAH FERGUSON Niagara Advance

Crossroad students Sarah vanEgmond, Maddie Peters, Karilyn Klassen and Brianna Franz are excited to begin their Christmas traditions.

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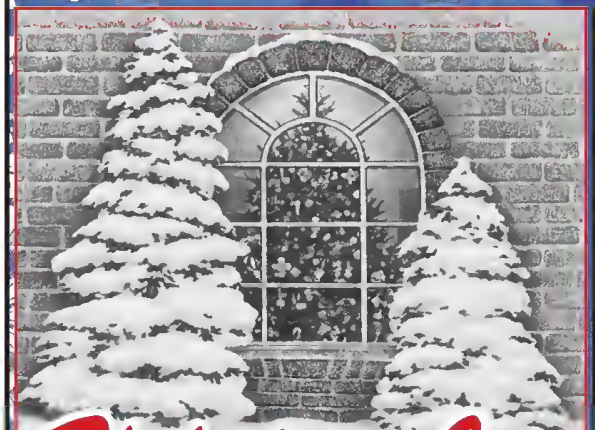
Maple Leaf Fudge employee Sue McLean presents four-year-old Quinten Davis with a gift basket, the prize he receives for his entry in the Niagara Advance colouring contest.



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Merry Christmas

Wishing you health, happiness, prosperity and peace in the coming year.

Our warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Hon. Rob Nicholson, M.P.

Niagara Falls, Fort Erie, Niagara on the Lake
Niagara Falls Conservative Electoral District Association
www.nfconservative.ca
Phone: 905-401-4612

Benjy Potstra, 10, receives his gift basket from Maple Leaf Fudge employee Sue McLean, his prize for his entry in the Niagara Advance colouring contest.

Greetings of the Season

We're reaching out to all our good friends. To wish you a season of joy without end!

Thank you for warming our holidays with your friendship.

MARTIN SHEPPARD FRASER LLP

WILLIAM R. (Bill) KING
NEIL A. VIOLA
Barristers & Solicitors
437 Mississagua
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-3272

Come, Let Us Adore Him!

May your heart be joyful, and your spirit lifted, as we celebrate the miracle of Christmas

Penner building centre
700 Penner Street
Virgil
905-468-3242

Joyous Noel

may all your prayers be answered, and may you enjoy the joy and peace of the season.
We appreciate your devoted support.
from the staff & management of

MASTER'S CAR CARE
905-468-4011
Conveniently located in the Niagara-on-the-Lake Business Park (beside the water tower)

Here's To Health And Happiness

Hope your holiday contains a large dose of fun and an extra measure of good cheer. It's been a real pleasure serving you this past year.

Serving Niagara since 1977
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233 King Street, Niagara-on-the-Lake • 905.468.8400
Holiday Hours:
Dec. 24: 10-4, Dec 25: Closed, Dec. 26: 11-5, Dec. 27 11-5, Dec. 28, 29, 30: 9-30-6, Dec. 31: 10-4, Jan. 1 Closed, Jan. 2: 11-5

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1882 Niagara Stone Road, Virgil 905.468.2121
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www.simpsonspharmacy.ca
Free Delivery Service available from both locations!

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Happy Holidays from our Family to Yours

Over 39 Years of Experience
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238 Bertie St., Fort Erie • 905-871-6566

Merry & Bright

WARMEST TIDINGS

To our valued customers and friends, go our sincere thanks and best wishes for a joyous and happy holiday season.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

REIF ESTATE WINERY

Niagara Parkway (between Lines 2 & 3)
468-7738

May Peace, Love and Joy be with you this holiday season

Merry Christmas from all of our Artisans who have benefited from the gift of Fair Trade

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES®
46 Queen Street
Niagara on the Lake
905-468-5242
www.TenThousandVillages.ca
Fair Trade Since 1946

Parliament Oak students, dressed in Mexican-style costumes, sing a song called Pinata at their Christmas concert, "Elfis and the Elves Get all shook Up," which explored how other cultures celebrate the holiday season.

Merry Christmas and thanks to all! We look forward to serving you in the coming year.

STAGECOACH FAMILY RESTAURANT
45 Queen Street
Christmas Eve - Open til 3 pm,
Christmas Day Closed,
Boxing Day 8am-4pm,
New Years Eve - Open til 3 pm,
New Years Day - Open 9am-4pm.
NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE
905-468-3133

All we want for Christmas is to thank our loyal clients for their generous support. We hope this holiday season brings you many blessings in the company of family and friends.

STONE ROAD DENTAL
1598 Niagara Stone Road (Hwy 55)
Dr. Kimberley Hill-Johnston
~New Patients Welcome~
905.468.2128

Merry Christmas

This is our favourite time of year, filled with good friends, good times, and good cheer.

We appreciate your business and wish you a wonderful holiday season!

Caroline Cellars
1028 Line 2, NOTL
905-468-8814
Fax: 905-468-4042
www.carolinecellars.com

Ho-Ho-Hope It's Merry!

Here's hoping all of your best wishes come true this holiday season!

Merry Christmas to all!

Niagara-on-the-Lake Family Health Team
'Promoting Community Wellness'
905-468-2177

Christmas Greetings

Upper Canada Travel would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of our friends and clients for your continued support and patronage during the past year. Your business means the world to us!
Wishing You All
A Very Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year.

UPPER CANADA TRAVEL
333 Mary St., NOTL
905-468-4201

Grade 4 students at Parliament Oak put on some cool shades and rock out as they sing some Christmas tunes for family and friends during "Elfis and the Elves Get all shook Up."

Millbrook Cabinetry INC.

Especially for You:

Our very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

15 HENEGAN RD.
VIRGIL BUSINESS PARK
905-468-2393
OPEN:
MON.- FRI.
8 AM - 4:30 PM

ROB NICHOLSON M.P.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Our Family to Yours

Fort Erie Country Fair Mall, 200 Garrison Rd., Unit 13
Fort Erie, ON L2A 4S6. 905-871-9991

Niagara Falls/N.O.T.L, 2895 St. Paul Ave., Unit 11
Niagara Falls, ON L2J 2L3. 905-353-9590

www.robnicholson.ca

Happy Holidays!

Celebrate a safe and warm holiday season with family and friends.
Many thanks for your valued patronage.

PHIL'S valu-mart

Thursday Dec 22, Friday Dec 23 - 8am - 9pm
Saturday Dec 24 - 7am - 5pm
Closed Dec 25 and 26
Tues- Friday 8am - 9pm
Saturday Dec 31 - 8am - 6pm

1551 Niagara Stone Rd. Virgil
905-468-3286

JOLLY GREETINGS

Let the season bring us a glimmer of the fun, excitement and wonder that it held for us as children.

NIAGARA MOTORS VIRGIL

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GMC TRUCKS

Hwy. 55,
Virgil
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MERRY CHRISTMAS

May the sounds of celebration and good cheer surround you and yours this holiday. Thanks for your loyal patronage.

IRISH DESIGN
75 Queen Street
Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-7233
www.irishdesign.com

Santa hands out presents to patients at the NOTL Hospital, including Hilde Petritsch, with help from Erin Lemoine.

With joy in our hearts, we extend our warm wishes to you and your family for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We appreciate your continued loyal support.

BRIDGMAN & DURKSEN
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Offices
NOTL, 905-468-1659
St. Catharines, 905-682-6677

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1 Henegan, Niagara-on-the-Lake

JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS,

May your Holiday season find you laughing all the way.
It has been a joy serving you this year!

Silks Country Kitchen
Village Green Plaza Virgil
905-468-7241

DELIVERING OUR THANKS

We're ho-ho-hoping a bundle of good news and glad tidings lands on your doorstep every day of the holiday season.
We appreciate your loyal readership and wish you all the best in 2012!

Penny Coles

Sarah Ferguson

Karen Skeoch

Anna Tiedtke

The Niagara Advance
Village Green Plaza
Virgil 905-468-3283
www.niagaraadvance.ca

Wishing You Joy Peace & Enlightenment At Christmas
With thanks to all of those who've inspired us this past year.
We are truly grateful for your friendship and continued loyalty.
All the best
Tony, Michele and family and the staff at

SAVE YOUR BOTTLES FOR THE AIR CADETS BOTTLE DRIVE JANUARY 7TH

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NEW YEAR'S EVE 8-6
CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY

Maple Leaf Fudge

Merry Christmas
*World's Finest Fudge
*Made With Real Butter
*Candies and Maple Sugar Products Available
*Ty Products

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Niagara-on-the-Lake
905-468-2211

ALL THINGS *beautiful* AT CHRISTMAS

Hope your holiday comes complete with all the trimmings of Peace, Love, Joy, Happiness, Health and Friendship. As this season of wonderful blessings draws near, we extend our wishes of goodwill and good cheer to all of our dear friends and neighbours. Thanks for making our year a fruitful one.

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This holiday season we are a grateful bunch. We would like to thank all of our existing customers and invite everyone who has not used our services to give us a call. You will be happy you did!

Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

www.mackayheating.ca

905-688-1849

We welcome all HUARD HEATING customers

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Put away that sweater you got last year.

The TRANE XV95 Furnace, up to 96.7% Efficiency.

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Rebates still available – Act Now.

Call today for expert advice on heating and whole-house air filtration systems.

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TRANE It's Hard To Stop A Trane.®

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Offer Expires January 14, 2012

FREE

Service call

With Purchased Repair Part

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$97 VALUE. Coupon must be presented at the time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other offers. One coupon per customer & home location. No Cash Value.

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SANTA CAN COME TO YOUR HOUSE!!!

Own a new high efficiency Heating System for as low as

$7.00 per week

OR

NO INTEREST, NO DOWN PAYMENT

with 24 or 36 Equal Payments!!!!

Call today for your FREE in-home Estimate!!!

Offer expires January 31, 2012

MACKAY ADVANCED ENERGIES

905-688-1849

Please call for details. Check out our web site

www.mackayheating.ca

Offer expires December 31st, 2010

TRANE

It's Hard To Stop A Trane.®

Save holiday booze bottles—they will help cadets learn to fly

Drop refundable liquor bottles off at former Virgil firehall or call for pick-up

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Don't throw out refundable beer, wine and liquor bottles accumulated over the holidays—hold on to them for just another week and help out some local kids at the same time.

The Niagara-on-the-Lake Air Cadets are holding another of their semi-annual bottle drives Saturday, Jan. 7.

Scott Rutan, chairman of the cadets' sponsoring committee—his job is to raise funds to offset costs—is organizing pick-ups throughout the Old Town, Garrison Village, St. Davids and Queenston.

Drop-offs can be made at the old Virgil firehall on Lorraine Street.

Recent bottle drives have raised funds to help cover operational costs—cadets are now paying a small fee to join, and Rutan hopes to keep it that way.

Cadets have traditionally been given the opportunity to take two glider flights a year from the Niagara District Airport, but Rutan hopes they will also be able to have one power familiarization flight on a Cessna 172 next year. The bottle drive will help to pay for that, he says.

The Air Cadet Program is open to youth between the ages of 12 and 18. Administered jointly by the Department of National Defence and the Air Cadet League of Canada, the program offers a wide variety of training, challenges and rewards to those young people who have chosen to take part in this program.

To arrange for pick-up of refundable bottles, call Rutan at 905-468-9735, or take them to the former Virgil firehall, where the cadets now meet, Jan. 7 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

For those interested in joining the organization, the first meeting in the new year will be held Wednesday, Jan. 11 at the former Virgil firehall, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

A War of 1812 Bicentennial Signature Event

You are cordially Invited to attend the
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR'S
New Year's Day
Levee
JANUARY 1, 2012
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
FORT GEORGE
OFFICERS' QUARTERS
Niagara National Historic Sites, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Meet the Honourable David Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario and other local dignitaries. After enjoying refreshments, tour the historic buildings at Fort George National Historic site. His Honour will officially welcome in 2012 at 3:00 p.m., followed by a cannon salute by the Fort George Artillery and a music presentation by the 41st Regiment Fife and Drum Corps.

Presented in partnership with:
Parks Canada, Niagara Region, The Friends of Fort George, Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Bicentennial Committee, and the Niagara 1812 Bicentennial Legacy Council

Parks Canada Parcs Canada

For additional information call: 905-468-6621 or visit the website www.1812niagaraonthelake.ca

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Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-10 p.m.
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Niagara Falls Blvd.
Summit Park Mall
Fashion Outlet Mall
Tops

8438 Niagara Falls Blvd.
(at Military) Mil-Pine Plaza, Niagara Falls, N.Y.
Toll Free: 1-800-526-2025
VISA (M.I.R.-mail-in rebate)

Prices in effect Sunday, December 18th To Saturday, December 24th

MINI SALE — Bacardi Silver or Spiced, BV Reserve, Cupcake Vodka, Cruzan Rum, E-JXO Brandy, Evan Williams Honey, Merry's Irish Cream 50ml — 99¢
PATRON REPOSADO OR ANEJO — $7.99 200 ml.
EVAN WILLIAMS EGG NOG — $6.99 750 ml
FULTONS PUMPKIN PIE CREAM — $9.99 750ml
MOHAWK FLAVOURED BRANDY ALL TYPES — $10.99 LTR.
BARTON 80° VODKA — $10.99 1.75 ltr.
E&J CALIFORNIA BRANDY — $11.99 LTR.
BLACK VELVET CANADIAN WHISKEY — $13.99 1.75 ltr.
SEAGRAMS DRY GIN — $15.99 1.75 ltr.
SOUTHERN COMFORT GIFT SET — $15.99 750 ml.
CANADIAN CLUB 1.75 ltr. — $16.99 6 YEAR $17.99 10 YEAR
JOSE CUERVO GOLD OR SILVER TEQUILA — $18.99 LTR.
AMARETTO DiSARONNO GIFT SET — $19.99 750 ml.
WILD TURKEY 80° BOURBON — $19.99 LTR.
STOLI 80° OR FLAVOURED VODKA ALL TYPES — $22.99 LTR.
CHIVAS REGAL SCOTCH WHISKEY GIFT SET — $26.99 750 ml.
CAPTAIN MORGAN ORIGINAL SPICED RUM — $27.99 1.75 ltr.
SEX VODKA — $29.99 1.75 ltr.
MACALLAN SCOTCH SALE 750 ml. — $47.99 12 YR $109.99 17 YR $72.99 15 YR $129.99 10 YR
SHOP OUR WINE ACCESSORIES INCLUDING NFL HELMET WINE BOTTLE STOPPERS ALL 32 TEAMS — $15.99

OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE 9AM - 7PM

4 Day Boxing Day Sale

50% off Everything

Starts Tuesday, December 27th

Monday, December 26th: Closed,
Tuesday, December 27th: 50% sale 9am-9pm
Wednesday, December 28th: 50% sale 9am-7pm
Thursday, December 29th: 50% sale 9am-7pm
Friday, December 30th: 50% sale 9am-7pm

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No Dealers or Wholesalers

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340 Welland Avenue, St. Catharines

Organizers Anne Dickson and Mary Lou Turner sample some bubbly which will be featured at the annual Niagara Ice Ball at the Court House on New Year's Eve. The women created the event to offer a community-minded party for NOTL residents to enjoy—an intimate but grand gathering. Those who attend will be treated to a free ice wine cocktail, a gourmet dinner, desserts and a live band. Tickets are $65 per person and they can be purchased in advance by contacting Dickson at 905-650-0781 or Turner at 905-359-7680.

Join us for our
Christmas Eve Service

Love's Pure Light

CHRIST

ORCHARD PARK BIBLE CHURCH
Saturday, December 24, 7:00 pm
434 Hunter Rd. NOTL 905.468.5731 www.orchardparkbiblechurch.org

ITALIAN RESTAURANT
Ristorante Giardino

Christmas Menu 2011

Appetizer - Choice of
Crostini aromatizzati con ice wine con salmone affumicato Norvegese su salsa di aneto e mostarda di Dijon
Ice Wine Crostini, Served with Norwegian Smoked Salmon in Dijon Mustard Dill Sauce
Or
Involtini di prosciutto San Daniele con fichi e nocciole rosolate al miele
Involtini of Prosciutto San Daniele with Figs and Roasted Hazelnuts Honey
Soup
Cappelletti Modenesi in brodo di cappone e scagliette di formaggio Gruviere
Cappelleti filled with Meat Sausage and Prosciutto Modena Style, Served in a Savory Capon Broth Topped with Gruyere Cheese
Pasta– Choice of-
Ravioli di cervo e castagne in deliziosa salsa di Barolo e mirtillo rosso
Stuffed Ravioli with Roasted Chestnut and Braised Venison, Served in a Blueberry Barolo Sauce
Or
Risotto "Surf & Turf" con coda d'astice e stringhe di filetto con crema di porro e pomodorini ciliegia
Italian Style Rice, Slowly Simmered with Lobster medallions and Strips of Beef Tenderloin, Cherry Tomatoes and Leek Cream
Entrée
Giovane tacchinella farcita natalizia, servita con asparagi al timo, ratatouille di verdure grigliate e puré di carote al miele d'acacia
Stuffed Roasted Young Turkey, Served With Asparagus, Grilled Ratatouille of Vegetables Puree of Honey Carrots
Dessert
Napoleon Layered with Fresh Berries and Cream

$59.95 per person

A La Carte Menu ALSO AVAILABLE

142 Queen Street • Niagara-on-the-Lake
Ph: 905-468-3263 Email: giardino@niagara.com
Reservations are recommended. Applicable taxes apply.

VOTE FOR THE SPIRIT OF NIAGARA

Nominations for the *Spirit of Niagara* awards in February are open until 5pm January 19, 2012 and can be submitted online by completing the nomination forms at **www.niagaraonthelake.com**

CATEGORIES:
Christopher Newton Award for Extraordinary Vision in Business
Company of the Year
Chamber of Commerce Community Leadership Award
Peter Ling Award to the Entrepreneur of the Year
Lord Mayor's Award of Excellence to the Citizen of the Year

Niagara-on-the-Lake

Tickets $25, available from **CHAMBER** of **COMMERCE** at 905-468-1950 or online.
VISITOR AND CONVENTION BUREAU

Ring in the New Year with a little ice at 'classy' Court House ball

Annual Niagara Ice Ball to be hosted in the Old Town.

Sarah Ferguson
Niagara Advance

Why not ring in the New Year with an ice-inspired affair with friends and family?

This year's Niagara Ice Ball is scheduled to take place at the Court House on New Year's Eve.

Everyone is invited to enjoy a night of delicious ice wine, a four-course feast with beef and salmon and live music from Wendell Blue—a five-piece band— to kick off the celebrations.

Organizers Anne Dickson and Mary Lou Turner have been working hard to put together an event for residents in Niagara-on-the-Lake to enjoy.

When Dickson, originally from Scotland, moved to NOTL a few years ago, she discovered there were a lot of places for visitors to enjoy New Year's Eve, but there wasn't a place for residents to go to enjoy a party with their neighbours and loved ones.

She is hoping to attract both a young and older crowd.

The organizer says there is something for everyone —food, to cocktails, to live music.

"This party isn't just for one specific crowd. We want families to bring their kids who are home from university and we want the older crowd to come out too. The music will feature a wide range of rock and pop, and there are lots of drinks and food. There's sure to be something for everyone."

The best part, says Dickson, is the ball will be a large event, but it will be an intimate affair at the same time where everyone knows everyone.

"It won't be like when you go to a party at one of the local hotels and you sit at a table where you don't know anyone. Everyone who attends the ball will be from the area."

Dickson says many people have already got their tickets because they have heard their friends and neighbours are attending.

The affair was originally planned to take place at the community centre, but because the annual social hosted by the St. Andrew's Society was cancelled, Dickson says the ball was relocated to the Court House.

She is excited about the location change because it allows people within walking distance to avoid the hassle of finding transportation to the community on New Year's Eve.

The new venue will also allow people to attend the traditional ringing of the bells which takes place in front of the cenotaph.

There is no formal dress code for the event, says Dickson, but people should dress "cocktail-smart," which could be anything from a nice dress for the ladies or a casual sports coat for men to suit the "classy event" that has been planned, including a red carpet walk into the Court House.

Tickets are $65 per person. To reserve tickets call Turner at 905-359-7680 or Dickson at 905-650-0781, or for more information visit www.niagaracaterers.ca.

Wishing Everyone a Healthy and Happy Christmas.
Serving Niagara since 1977
SIMPSON'S
LIVE WELL WITH PHARMASAVE
SIMPSON'S PHARMACY
1882 Niagara Stone Road • Virgil • 905.468.2121

Saturday, Dec. 24th	9:00am – 4:00pm	Sunday, Dec. 25th	CLOSED
Monday, Dec. 26th	10:00am – 4:00pm	Tuesday, Dec. 27th	9:00am – 5:00pm
Wednesday, Dec. 28th	8.30am – 8:00pm	Thursday, Dec. 29th	8.30am – 8:00pm
Friday, Dec. 30th	8.30am – 8:00pm	Saturday, Dec. 31st	9:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday, Jan. 1st	CLOSED	Monday, Jan. 2nd	9:00am – 5:00pm

SIMPSON'S APOTHECARY
233 King Street • Niagara-on-the-Lake • 905.468.8400

Saturday Dec. 24th	10:00am - 4:00pm	Sunday Dec. 25th	CLOSED
Monday Dec. 26th	11:00am - 5:00pm	Tuesday Dec. 27th	11:00am - 5:00pm
Wednesday Dec. 28th	9:30am – 6:00pm	Thursday, Dec. 29th	9:30am – 6:00pm
Friday Dec. 30th	9:30am – 6:00pm	Saturday, Dec. 31st	10:00am - 4:00pm
Sunday Jan. 1st	CLOSED	Monday, Jan. 2nd	11:00am - 5:00pm

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www.Gary Zalepa Jr.com

NDSS basketball star honoured almost 50 years after his last game

Former MVP recognized at 50th anniversary of basketball tournament

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Art Wiens was never the highest scorer the years he played in the championship games of the Standard High School Basketball Tournament.

And his Niagara District team never won the tournament, although the local high school would go on to win consolation games in the 50-year history of thecompetition.

But for two consecutive years Wiens was named MVP of the tournament, despite his team's loss to St. Catharines Collegiate both times.

The six-foot-one centre was given the honour the first time in 1964, when as a junior he was called up to help his team. He was named MVP not because of his points but for his "all-around gentlemanly conduct" and his "uncanny ability for recovering rebounds from both backboards," the Standard newspaper of the day reported.

That year, NDSS lost to Collegiate 43-24. The next year the local boys fared better, but still lost 46-41 to the city boys—Wiens again collecting the MVP award.

The local athlete, now 65 and sidelined from his love of sports as he battles colorectal cancer, had an unexpected opportunity recently to relive his glory years playing basketball for NDSS, under coaches Chuck Salter and Ed McCarthy, with Murray Gamin, the head of physical education at the high school, also playing a strong supportive role.

The Standard's 50th anniversary of their basketball tournament, which was a highlight of the high school season for players and coaches of 16 teams across north Niagara, celebrated not only today's basketball stars but the best of previous years, including Wiens.

During the weekend celebrations, Wiens, along with all the MVPs of the history of the tournament, was invited to a reception the evening before the final game, as well as the championship contest held at Brock University.

"I expected our names would be read out, and we'd maybe stand up and wave," says Wiens.

Instead, they were all awarded medallions, and five, deemed the all-time all stars, or the best of the best, were presented with plaques recognizing their contribution to basketball.

"The room was really noisy, and when my name was called, I wasn't sure I had heard right," said Wiens, who played in the second, third and fourth year of the tournament, and was the oldest one of the MVPs present.

See Page 27

BEST BUY - CORRECTION NOTICE
NEWSPAPER RETRACTION FOR THE BEST BUY DECEMBER 16 CORPORATE FLYER On the December 16 flyer, page 21, these products: Bell and Virgin Samsung Galaxy Nexus Phones (WebCode: 10186528/ 10186331), were incorrectly advertised with an LTE feature. Please be advised that these phones do NOT have the LTE specification or network available to them. ***We sincerely epologize for eny inconvenience this mey heve ceused our valued customers.***

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Niagara-on-the-Lake Realty Brokerage

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Former athlete faces bigger battle

From Page 26

"I was shocked. It was a thrill, to say the least. I never expected to receive this kind of award at this stage of my life. It was quite an experience, a very emotional one. It was something I never could have expected in my wildest dreams."

It was also fun meeting again some of the players he had competed against 50 years ago, and hadn't seen since.

"It brought back a lot of great memories. Winning the MVP was the highlight of my athletic career, even though Collegiate beat us each time."

At the moment, Wiens has another opponent to battle.

He has just finished a year of chemotherapy to keep chronic colorectal cancer at bay. His tumours can't be removed, but the ongoing chemo is intended to keep them from growing, and so far the treatment has been successful.

Once active in several sports, he takes it much easier than he used to—no more hockey or baseball for the man who grew up playing both every chance he got—but says he feels great.

He is on a two-month break from the chemo to give his body a bit of a rest from it, and will go back for more treatments in January, but he feels very fortunate that they have not been hard to take, with little in the way of the side effects that are usually associated with chemotherapy.

"I feel really good."

Although he has been told the best he can hope for is to keep his cancer stable and under control, he remains optimistic about his future.

"There could be a cure tomorrow. Or I could go for my next CAT scan and find the tumours are gone. I believe in miracles."

Art Wiens was thrilled to be recognized at the Standard's 50th Anniversary Basketball Tournament as one of the all-time all-stars, for his participation back in the early 60s.

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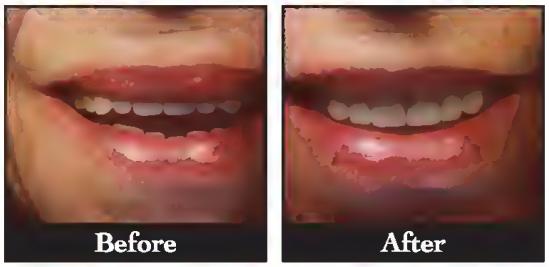

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Novice Rangers team looking forward to tournaments in new year

Local girls basketball team still needs two more players to complete the full roster.

In Niagara Rangers basketball action, the novice girls played their first official home game of the season.

The Rangers lost 26-12 to the Niagara Falls Red Raiders in a game played at Crossroads Public School last Tuesday.

Although the Rangers were out-scored by the Raiders, the girls held their own and they played hard.

The high scorer of the game was Chiara van der Zalm who earned six points for her team during last week's game.

Olivia Krieger and Maddie Caughill added to the Ranger's score by earning three points each.

Indy de Groot and Logan Brown played a great game and they showed excellent defensive skills on the court against the Raiders, says coach Jennifer Caughill.

Players Kalynda Harrington, Lexi Buis, Felicia Miele, Morgan Cherney and Kennedy Johnston showed fantastic hustle during the game, she said.

The Rangers are looking forward to their upcoming tournaments in the new year, when they will travel to Ancaster and Hamilton to compete.

The Rangers will also be hosting a local round robin at Crossroads Public School.

The novice girls team are still looking for two more players to join their team to be able to to compete in the upcoming tournaments.

Interested players must be girls in Grade 4 and under.

No experience is necessary and the team is focused on having fun and building skills.

If anyone is interested in playing for the novice Rangers, Jennifer Caughill by phone at 468-9408.

Or, the Rangers can also be contacted by e-mail at winnersdaycamps@cogeco .ca

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Skating pros in the making

SARAH FERGUSON Niagara Advance

Abby Johnstone, Sydney Cripps and Alyssa Hunter earned new badges in the CanSkate program which teaches children how to skate. The girls are half way through the program and once they complete it they will move on to StarSkate, which will teach them how to figure skate

Flag Rugby coaches needed

Niagara-on-the-Lake Flag Rugby is looking for coaches for the upcoming season.

The commitment for coaches is just an hour once a week from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. from mid-May to mid-August. Volunteer coaches would also be required to attend six local tournaments throughout the summer.

Flag rugby is a fast-paced, non-contact game for boys and girls ages five to 14. For more information a

out getting involved contact Caleb Smith at caleb_s51@hotmail.com or 905-357-9233. Anyone who is interest can also visit niagaraflagrugby.com.

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Rotary Club takes home two wins against West Lincoln and Dunnville

In atom action of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Minor Hockey Association, the Rotary Club played two outstanding games of hockey and won both.

Saturday, the Rotary played an afternoon game with only nine players.

Despite being short-handed, the atoms won a 10 to 5 victory against West Lincoln.

Nick Difruscio scored four goals and Kai Bartel earned a hat trick.

Freddy D'Angelo scored two goals while Brock Gula added a single goal.

Beautiful sharp, crisp passes were made by Ethan Carmichael, Josh Kairo, Brodie O'Toole, Ewan Fenwick and Colin Pederson.

Sunday evening, the Rotary Club beat Dunnville 8-2.

Austin Belanger scored two goals, and Ryan Galloway landed a beautiful shot past the Dunnville goalie.

Carmichael, Bartel, Kairo and D'Angelo also scored goals contributing to the win. Austyn Werstroh in net kept the pucks away making incredible saves.

After a short break the Rotary Club will be playing in a tournament in Niagara Falls.

Investor Group beats Smithville and Port Colborne on the road

In recent Niagara-on-the-Lake Minor Hockey Association action, the Investors Group peewees won two games last weekend.

On Saturday, the Investors defeated Smithville 5 – 4.

Nick VanEgmond scored two goals during the game, while Haiden O'Toole and Isaak Hendriks each scored one.

Matthew Puglisi also scored a single and it was the game winner.

Assists were earned by Josh Bush, collecting three, and Isaak Hendriks with two.

O'Toole, VanEgmond and Jack Pentesco each earned assists.

Sunday, the Investors played in Port Colborne and came home with a 7 – 1 victory.

Hendriks scored two goals, while Puglisi, O'Toole and Gabe Murray each scored singles.

Bush and Justin Wormald also scored single goals and collected single assists.

Nicholas Armstrong earned three assists.

Nathan Zalepa, Mitchell Davies, Matthew Caston and Pentesco each earned single assists for the win.

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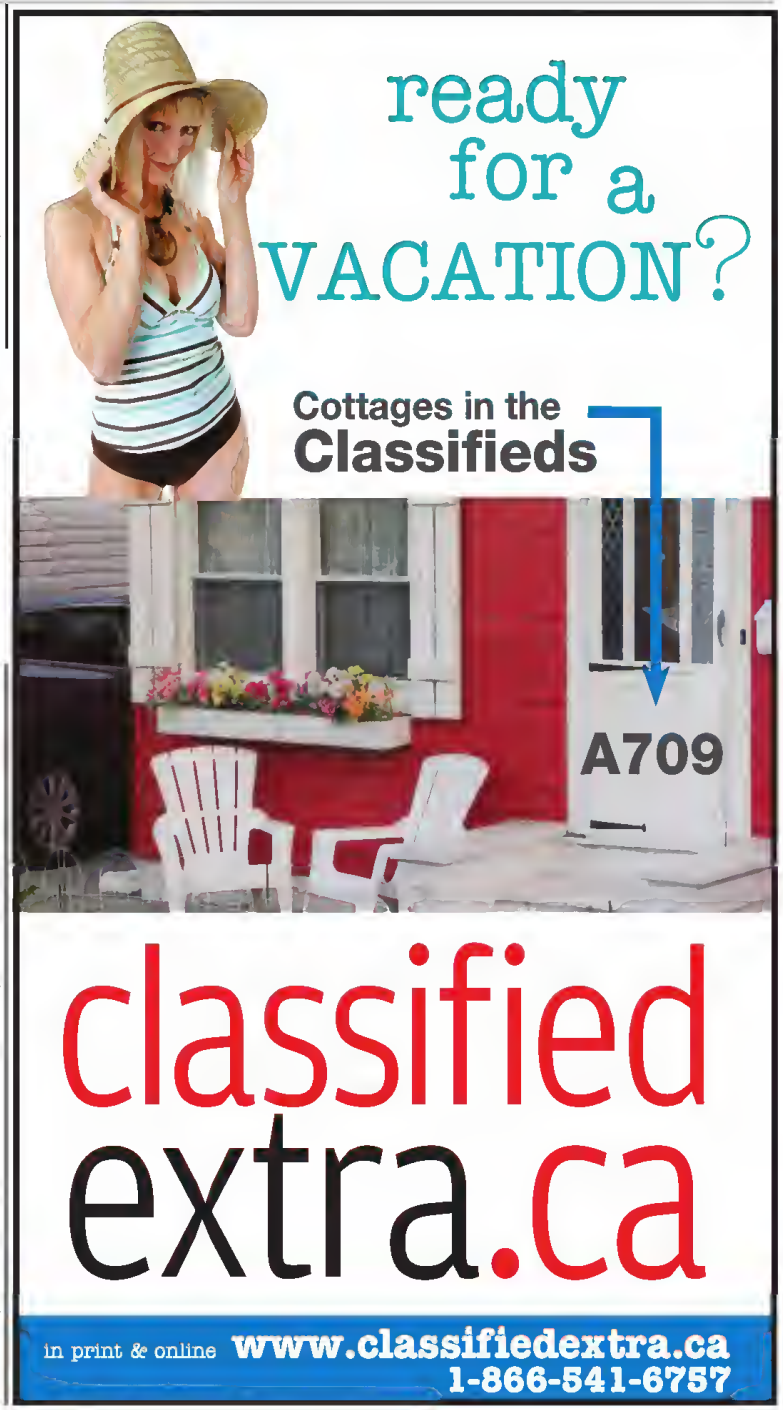

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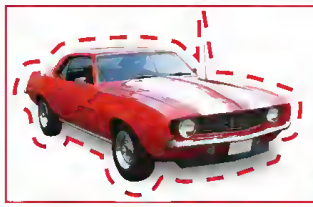

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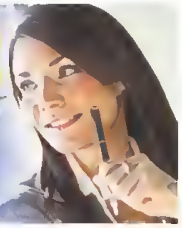

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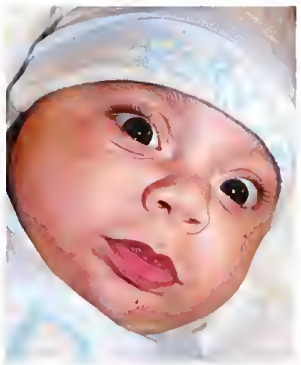

OUR PRINCE WAS BORN!

On September 4, 2011 very proud big sisters, Sophia and Felicia Miele, finally got their wish for a baby brother and
MICHAEL PAOLO MIELE
was born.

Blessed and elated third time parents are **Paolo and Adriana Miele,** third grandchild for Michael and Nancy D'Antini and ninth grandchild for Pasquale and Maria Miele.

Michael was welcomed by many cousins, aunts, uncles and friends. A big thank you to my Obstetrician Dr. Nwebube and office staff, Sarah and Jessica for all your wonderful care, our delivering Obstetrician Dr. Garissa and OB nurse Denise and the wonderful OB staff at W.L.M.H. in Grimsby. Also, big thanks to my wonderful GP Dr. D. Reimer and staff in NOTL.
12476982

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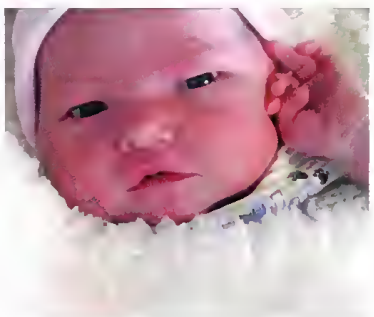
Births



It's A Girl!

PARKINSON
Mary Resmini & Paul Parkinson
are proud to announce the birth of
CLARA LINDA MARJORIE
A baby sister for Ethan.
A speedy and safe arrival at home
November 12, 2011
weighing 8 lbs 10 oz
Overjoyed, are grandparents:
Brian & Christine Parkinson,
Linda Ogilvie and Edward Resmini
Great-grandparents:
Thomas & Merle Parkinson,
Helen and the late Thomas Henry Ogilvie,
the late Marjorie & Robert Walsh
and the late Viola & Evo Resmini.

Special Thanks to Niagara Midwives and Niagara EMS

12475433

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Deaths

HARDISON, Edward R. — *Home at last.* Passed from this life into his eternal reward on Thursday December 15, 2011 at Eventide Nursing Home, Niagara Falls. Loving husband to Anita, for 48 years, father to son Jeff and predeceased by daughter Susan. Elated with the news of becoming a first time grandfather to Jeff and Jenn's expected baby. Survived by his father, five brothers, one sister and an aunt. A mentor and friend to many — those who knew him loved and respected him, especially the young people at Grace Gospel and Caven Church Bolton and the many industry colleagues of Moldex Barrie and the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating where he served as President from 1986-2002. He and Anita then retired to Virgil where he dedicated a great deal of his time and energy to volunteering with young people, Habitat for Humanity, NOTL Palliative Care, Meals on Wheels, Chateau Gardens and Grace Gospel Church, always with his partner, friend and wife at his side. Cremation has taken place. Visitation and service have been held. Donations would be preferred to CNETS Canada (Cancer Research) or Grace Gospel Building Fund. Arrangements in care of MORSE & SON FUNERAL HOME, 5917 Main Street, Niagara Falls. Online guest register: www.morseandson.com

"Ed is now where he always longed to be, with Jesus"

A Memorial Donation has been made to

Morgan Funeral Homes Community Fund

12474771

Down a road that's calm and peaceful,
Guided by God's loving hand,
He has gone upon a journey
To a distant, brighter land.
And although our hearts are heavy
With sorrow we still bear,
It helps to bring us comfort,
Knowing he is happy there.

Memoriem Verse #2
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11283635

In memoriam

In Loving Memory of
ANNA CECELIA WIGGILL
(nee Berkowitz)
who passed away 25 years ago
December 26, 1986

I thought of you with love today
But that is nothing new,
I thought about you yesterday
And days before that too,
I think of you in silence,
I often speak your name,
All I have are memories
And your picture in a frame,
Your memory is my keepsake
With which I'll never part,
God has you in his keeping,
I have you in my heart.

Your Loving and Longing Son, Trevor

12472388

Although we smile and make no fuss
No one misses him more than us.
And when old times we oft recall,
It's then we miss you most of all.

Memoriem Verse #19
To remember a loved one with this verse
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11283650

Show everyone your appreciation.
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11283627

Special In Memoriams 245

MARK JOHN QUINN

In Loving Memory of our dear father
who passed away 27 years ago,
December 25, 1984.

In Memory of a loving father who's life contributed so much to so many.
Always loved and remembered by your children:

Margaret & Johnny Grimstead,
Carol & Gary Dyck, Lynn & Chris Smith,
Carmel Quinn and Lawrence Quinn
and your grandchildren
Casey Smith, Erin & Mark Dyck.

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Although we smile and make no fuss
No one misses him more than us.
And when old times we oft recall,
It's then we miss you most of all.

Memoriam Verse #19
To remember a loved one with this verse
Call 1-866-541-6757 Today

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Until the day breaks,
And the shadows flee away.

Memoriam Verse #25
To remember a loved one with this verse
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Century 21 tykes play tough game for 6–5 win

In tyke action of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Minor Hockey Association, Century 21 Zalepa Realty played a tough game against the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 124.

Century 21 got off to a good start with Ethan Peters steam-rolling his way to crash the net and put the team up by one.

This game was action-packed end-to-end, keeping people in the stands on their feet for three periods.

Peters and Cole Holmes almost knocked home hat tricks but they were denied.

Evan Harlond and Oliver Sibbald also picked up goals to help finalize the deal.

Giordano Aceti showed what hard work and practice can do as he stood on his head in net performing tricks to help Century 21 beat the Legion for the first time this year 6 – 5.

Scoring for Branch 124 was Ethan Williams with three goals.

Adding singles were Madison Giampa and Noah Ostromecki.

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Happy Holidays from Our Team

and kind wishes for a successful and healthy 2012

to everyone in our community

Glenn Brazeau*

Nancy Brazeau*

Liesa Lepp*

Phyllis Henderson*

Gary Snider**

Sally McLeod-Miller*

Marlene Ouwendyk*

Patrica Atherton*

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Sally McGarr***

Happy Holidays to you and your Family. Drive Safely!

Vaughn Aloian*

May the Christmas Spirit warm your Hearts and Home this year!

David Beach*

Best wishes for a Happy Holiday, Health and Prosperity in 2012!

Janis Green*

Wishing you a world of holiday cheer!

Randy Hart*

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2012!

Claude Corriveau*

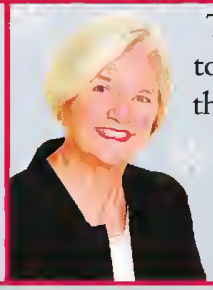
Sarah Digweed*

May your Home be filled with Peace & Love during the Holidays!

Jennifer Hayes**

Wishing a Healthy and Happy 2012 to all!

Barbara Hilliard*



The Joy you give to others is the Joy that comes back to you. Happy Holidays!

Susan House**

Thank you for your Loyalty in 2011. Unwrap yourself a wonderful Christmas !!!

Nina Mandeville*

May your home be filled with love & laughter. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Diane Stewart*

Rejoice in the Spirit of Christmas, which is Peace, the Miracle of Christmas, which is Hope, and the Heart of Christmas, which is Love!

Angela McMillan*

Jesse Snoei*

Sincerest Wishes to you and your loved ones for a home filled with Peace and Joy this Holiday Season. Good Health and Prosperity in the New Year!

Jean Page*

Randy Page*

Patrick, Jim and Liana (a.k.a. THEbTEAM!) would like to wish you and your family Seasons Greetings, Happy Holidays and a very Merry Christmas. Have a safe and relaxing holiday season!

Liana Romano* Patrick Burke* Jim Broderick*

Wishing you Joy and Peace the whole year through!

Doug Rempel*